

LING 329 : Morphology

TTh 6:10–7:30, Vollum 234

Course Syllabus Spring 2006

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PREREQUISITES

Successful completion of Linguistics 311 (or equivalent), or instructor consent.

READINGS

There are two required textbooks for this course, both available from the bookstore:

- Haspelmath, Martin. (2002) *Understanding Morphology*. Arnold. <P241.H37 2002>
- Spencer, Andrew. (1991) *Morphological Theory*. Blackwell. <P241.S64 1991>

Supplementary course readings are included in the “Course Outline” section at the end of the syllabus. These readings are available on 2-hour reserve from the library unless otherwise indicated.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE

Morphology is the branch of linguistics which deals with the shape and internal structure of **words**. Morphologists seek to determine what kinds of knowledge speakers of a language need to have in order to use words and have intuitions about them. Since words (or their subparts) are stored in the speaker’s **mental lexicon**, morphology is also the study of the lexicon and how it is organized. Morphology is often characterized as the study of **morphemes** (roots, affixes, etc.) and the rules governing how morphemes combine to form words. However, the concept of ‘morpheme’ is problematic, and some morphologists have proposed theories of word structure which dispense with morphemes altogether. Some of the major questions we will be addressing in this course include the following:

- (1) What is a word? Is ‘word’ a coherent notion, and if so, how can it be defined? What is the status of words within the speaker’s mental grammar?
- (2) Are morphemes best viewed as *atoms* (the basic building blocks of words), or as *rules* (functions mapping one word or stem to another), or as both/neither? What does our theory of morphemes tell us about the structure of the lexicon?
- (3) Where does morphology ‘live’ in the grammar? Languages clearly have *phonological* principles (rules governing the combining of features into segments, segments into syllables, etc.), as well as *syntactic* principles (rules governing the combining of words into larger constituents). But are there any independent principles of morphology—and hence a separate morphology **module** in the grammar? Or do generalizations about words and the structure of the lexicon reduce to principles of phonology and syntax?

Words live at the interface between form and meaning. They exist in grammar both as syntactic units, which play a role in sentence structure, and as phonological units within a hierarchy of prosodic domains. We will therefore be particularly concerned with how the study of word structure interfaces with the study of sound structure and the study of sentence structure.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, GRADING, AND POLICIES

Course grade will be based on the following work (percentages are approximate):

Participation / presentation	10%
Final exam	20%
Term paper	20%
Problem sets	60%

Participation and in-class presentations: Students will be expected to attend class and participate in discussion on a regular basis. In addition, each student will give an in-class presentation (approximately 30 minutes) discussing the morphological structure of a language or language family of his/her choice. Presentations can be based on the morphological sketches in Part V of Spencer & Zwicky (eds.) *The Handbook of Morphology*, or on other sources. Presentations will be given twice a week immediately following spring break (dates listed below). Please pick a language (family) and date for your presentation, and consult with me on sources, by **Friday, 24 February**.

Date	Name	Language (family)
Tues, 21 March		
Thurs, 23 March		
Tues, 28 March		
Thurs, 30 March		

Exam: There will be a final exam, modeled on the problem sets and focusing on morphological analysis. It will be an untimed take-home exam, and you will be given a week to work on it. The exam will likely be handed out at the end of reading week and due one week later (exact dates subject to negotiation).

Term paper: Students will be required to write a term paper (approximately 15 pages single-spaced) on a topic of their choice. Students may opt to present a morphological sketch of a language or language family (different from the one chosen for the in-class presentation), or you may choose to investigate some aspect of morphological theory discussed in the class. Topics must be approved by me. Please submit a term paper proposal to me by **Friday, 10 March**.

Problem sets: There will be five problem sets, handed out and due approximately every 2 weeks. Due dates for problem sets are given in the table below (this schedule is subject to modification):

	<i>handed out</i>	<i>due</i>
PS 1	Tues, 7 February	Tues, 21 February
PS 2	Tues, 21 February	Tues, 7 March
PS 3	Tues, 7 March	Tues, 28 March
PS 4	Tues, 28 March	Tues, 11 April
PS 5	Tues, 11 April	Tues, 25 April

Problem sets and papers must be turned in by **5:00 PM** on the date they are due. You may submit your assignments in either hardcopy or electronic versions. Electronic versions should be submitted as email attachments (please submit as PDF documents to avoid any font or formatting problems).

Problem sets and papers must be turned in on time if you wish to receive full credit and comments. Late assignments will be penalized 10% of total possible points for each day that they are late, unless you receive an extension from me. Late problem sets will not be accepted for credit if turned in after the assignment has been returned to students with comments, or discussed in class, whichever comes first (moreover, late problem sets will probably receive minimal feedback, and may not be returned in a timely fashion).

A final note on homework: You are encouraged to work on problem sets *together*, so long as you write up your answers *in your own words*. You should also feel free to come see me during office hours if you're having difficulty completing an assignment (preferably *before* the assignment is actually due). I am always willing to talk about any aspect of the course, and to give you whatever help you may need, so please take advantage of my services!

COURSE OUTLINE

The schedule outlined below is subject to change. The course is divided into sections, with reading assignments listed in order after each section heading. You will notice that I have not included specific dates for reading assignments, since it makes more sense to me to set the pace of the course as we go along. Our textbooks are listed as “Haspelmath” and “Spencer”, respectively, while fuller citations are given for supplementary readings. The latter are on 2-hour reserve unless otherwise indicated.

(1) Overview of the phenomena: Words, lexemes, morphemes; the nature of the lexicon; types of morpho-phonological operations; rule-based versus morpheme-based approaches to morphology

- Haspelmath, chapter 1 “Introduction”
- Haspelmath, chapter 2 “Basic concepts”
- Spencer, chapter 1 “The domain of morphology”
- Haspelmath, chapter 3 “Lexicon and rules”
- Spencer, chapter 2 “Basic concepts and pre-generative approaches”
- Spencer & Zwicky (eds.), *The Handbook of Morphology*, chapter 6 “Morphophonological operations” (Spencer) <P241.H36 1998>

(2) Doing basic morphological analysis; affixation and allomorphy

- Odden, *Introducing Phonology*, chapter 4 “Underlying representations” <reserve folder>
- Haspelmath, chapter 10 “Morphophonology”
- Spencer, chapter 3 “Early generative approaches” [optional, but recommended for understanding chapter 4]
- Spencer, chapter 4 “Approaches to allomorphy”

(3) Morphological functions: Inflection versus derivation; productivity

- Haspelmath, chapter 4 “Inflection and derivation”
- Spencer & Zwicky (eds.), *The Handbook of Morphology*, chapter 1 “Inflection” (Stump) <P241.H36 1998>
- Anderson, “Where’s morphology?”, *Linguistic Inquiry* 13 (1982), pp. 571-612 <reserve folder; also available in the bound periodicals section>
- Haspelmath, chapter 6 “Productivity”

(4) Reduplication and non-concatenative morphology

- Spencer, chapter 5 “Nonlinear approaches to morphology”
- Marantz, “Re reduplicaton”, *Linguistic Inquiry* 13 (1982), pp. 435-482 <reserve folder; also available in the bound periodicals section>
- Spencer & Zwicky (eds.), *The Handbook of Morphology*, chapter 14 “Prosodic morphology” (McCarthy & Prince) <P241.H36 1998> [section 3 “Recent developments” is optional]

(5) Words, phrases, and constituent structure: The internal ‘syntax’ of complex words; compounds; phonological word versus grammatical word; clitics

- Haspelmath, chapter 5 “Morphological trees”
- Spencer, chapter 6 “Later generative theories”, pp. 177-214
- Spencer, chapter 8 “Compounds”
- Haspelmath, chapter 8 “Words and phrases”
- Dixon & Aikhenvald, *Word: A Cross-Linguistic Typology*, chapter 1 “Word: a typological framework” (Dixon & Aikhenvald) <P128.W67 W67 2002>
- Spencer, chapter 9 “Clitics”
- Spencer & Zwicky (eds.), *The Handbook of Morphology*, chapter 5 “Clitics” (Halpern) <P241.H36 1998> [optional]

(6) Inflection revisited: Paradigms; syncretism and ‘irregularity’; do morphemes exist?

- Haspelmath, chapter 7 “Inflectional paradigms”
- Spencer, chapter 6 “Later generative theories”, pp. 214-229
- Haspelmath, chapter 9 “Word-based rules”
- Anderson, *A-Morphous Morphology*, chapter 3 “Is morphology really about morphemes?”

(7) Grammatical relations; incorporation; argument structure and syntax-in-the-lexicon

- Haspelmath, chapter 11 “Morphology and valence”
- Spencer, chapter 7 “Grammatical relations”

(8) Distributed morphology

- Hale & Keyser, *The View From Building 20*, chapter 3 “Distributed morphology and the pieces of inflection” (Halle & Marantz) <P26.B768 V54 1993>
 - Because this paper is quite dense, I recommend consulting Prof. Rolf Noyer’s FAQ on Distributed Morphology, at <http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~rnoyer/dm/>
- Marantz, “No escape from syntax: Don’t try morphological analysis in the privacy of your own lexicon” <available for download as a PDF at <http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~rnoyer/dm/bib.html>; just scroll down to the entry for this paper and click on the title>